

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**STATE DIRECTOR OF THE
SC DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

APPLICATION PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 – OCTOBER 2, 2009

The South Carolina Department of Disabilities & Special Needs Commission, the governing board of the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs in Columbia, SC, seeks qualified applicants for the position of the **State Director of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs**. As agency CEO, the State Director is responsible for direction and management of all the state's services and programs for South Carolinians with severe lifelong disabilities, including mental retardation and related disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, and spinal cord injury and similar disabilities. The State Director administers an annual budget of \$538 million supporting over 30,000 persons and their families. Approximately 82 percent of these individuals live at home with their families. The remaining 18 percent of individuals have the most severe disabilities and complex needs that cannot be met at home, and require 24-hour care provided in contracted community residential settings or in one of five state operated regional centers.

The successful applicant must have, as a minimum, an earned Master's degree plus ten (10) years of senior leadership experience. The degree must be in a discipline that is applicable to leadership and management of disabilities services. An earned Doctorate degree plus ten (10) years of senior leadership experience and a knowledge of best practices in a modern services network that is responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities and their families is preferred.

Additional qualifications include:

- Demonstrated leadership skills;
- Demonstrated ability to alter, creatively, a large organization's structure and culture to meet changing budgetary, regulatory, and consumer needs;
- Demonstrated managerial experience involving large, complex organizations and systems.
- Strong communication and negotiation skills.
- Proficiency in crisis management.
- Capacity for critical thinking to assess policy options, their feasibility in a complex context and the impact on persons the agency serves.
- Demonstration of prior positive working relations with parents, consumers and protection and advocacy groups.

Benefits include a negotiated salary range: (\$130,063 - \$165,264 - \$201,622); health, life, dental insurance; a liberal leave and holiday policy; and a pleasant living environment in the Columbia, South Carolina area. Columbia is situated in the Midlands of South Carolina with the mountains and beach within approximately two hours distance. For more information visit: <http://www.discoversouthcarolina.com/>

SCDDSN is "An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer." All applications/inquiries will be treated confidentially.

Qualified persons may apply for this position online at www.jobs.sc.gov or by submitting a hard copy of the new State of South Carolina Employment Application and a professional resume to:

Deirdre Blake-Sayers, Director of Human Resources
SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
3440 Harden Street Extension, P.O. Box 4706
Columbia, South Carolina 29240

www.ddsn.sc.gov